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COLBY KEEPS POST TILL SENATE ACTS

He Will Have 'Full Authority'
Until Bush Returns and
Obtains Confirmation

By PHILIP SHABECOFF

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 5—William E. Colby, dismissed this week by President Ford as head of the Central Intelligence Agency, was asked today to continue to run the agency until his successor is confirmed by the Senate and acceded to the request.

The White House press secretary, Ron Nessen, said that the President had called Mr. Colby to ask him to stay on temporarily.

Mr. Nessen said that Mr. Colby would continue to exercise "full authority" at the agency until George Bush, who was nominated by the President to be a new director, returns from his diplomatic post in Peking and is approved by Congress.

Mr. Nessen also defended the appointment of Mr. Bush, a former chairman of the Republican National Committee, against charges by Democratic Senators Frank Church of Idaho, William Proxmire of Wisconsin, and others, that it would politicize the intelligence agency.

Nessen Scores Church

Mr. Church, chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, which is investigating the C.I.A., said he opposed Mr. Bush's appointment based on what he knew now because the C.I.A. was the most sensitive and least political Federal agency.

At a regular news briefing, Mr. Nessen said that Senator Church seemed to be "more interested in making headlines than in conducting an investigation."

He also said that the President believed Mr. Bush would do an "outstanding job" and added that the President also believed that the fact that the agency would now be headed by a man who has run for public office would make it more "responsive" to the community.

The Senate investigation of the C.I.A. will not be affected by replacing Mr. Colby with Mr. Bush, Mr. Nessen said.

He was not able to say how long Mr. Colby was expected to continue to run the C.I.A.

At the same briefing, Mr. Nessen said that there was no truth to speculation that the "hard line" at the Defense Department would be softened because the President was replacing Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger with Donald H. Rumsfeld, now White House chief of staff.

There is an idea that Schlesinger's leaving removes a hard line voice in terms of dealing with the Soviet Union," Mr. Nessen said, adding, "Anyone who knows Don Rumsfeld, and knows his record on defense matters in Congress and at NATO and the White House, cannot believe that Don is going to be any less forceful in expressing his views."

Mr. Nessen said that Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's record and the fact that President Ford would never take steps that would endanger the national security should be taken as assurances that the departure of Mr. Schlesinger would not signal a softening of the nation's defense posture.

Key Agreements

The outgoing defense secretary, Mr. Nessen said, is in "total agreement" with the strategic arms limitations agreement reached between Mr. Ford and Leonid I. Brezhnev, the Soviet leader, in Vladivostok last year and, in fact, had been an author of that agreement. Mr. Schlesinger also supported the disengagement agreement in the Sinai between Egypt and Israel, negotiated by Secretary Kissinger, Mr. Nessen said.

When asked why, then, Mr. Schlesinger had been dismissed, Mr. Nessen reiterated Mr. Ford's explanation that the President had wanted "to bring his own team in." He insisted that "policy differences were not a factor" in the dismissal of Mr. Schlesinger.

Mr. Nessen also asserted that the President had decided to make personnel changes on his own and that "nobody, including Secretary Kissinger, had a role in the decision." The press secretary added that the President had not asked Mr. Kissinger for his views before making the changes.

Secretary Kissinger was asked to give up his second Post of national security adviser to the President as part of the shake-up.

Lieut. Gen. Brent Scowcroft, named by the President to succeed Mr. Kissinger in the national security post, asked the White House counsel's office today to determine if he would have to give up his Air Force commission to take the job. General Scowcroft had been Mr. Kissinger's deputy on the National Security Council staff.

Criticism of the President's shake-up in the top defense and intelligence posts continued today. Testifying at hearings on the changes held by the subcommittee on Future Foreign Policy of the House Committee on International Relations, Adam Yarmolinsky, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, expressed grave doubts about the changes.

"If the President's nominations are confirmed," he said, "the American people will, I am very much afraid, be trading a hawk for a pigeon, a diplomat for a warrior, and a professional civil servant for a political partisan."

Vice President Rockefeller's office announced, meanwhile, that Mr. Rockefeller would hold a news conference tomorrow morning. It will be his first public appearance since he disclosed on Monday that he would not be a candidate for the Vice Presidency next year. He has remained in virtual seclusion from the news media since then.